

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, Line 29 with the following new paragraph:

It is well known that vehicle frame components are usually manufactured in relatively large quantities. Therefore, to insure optimum efficiency in the manufacturing operation, any process to be performed on a vehicle frame component must be capable of being performed in a relatively quick and efficient manner. Although it is known to perform a retrogression heat treatment process on a vehicle frame component prior to bending the component, as discussed above, such known methods have been found to be undesirably slow in the context of the manufacture of vehicle frame components. Thus, it would be desirable to provide an improved apparatus method for manufacturing a vehicle frame component that allows a preliminary heat treatment process to be performed in a relatively quick and easy manner so as to facilitate the subsequent performance of a bending or other deforming process.

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